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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,507	08/31/2001	Shigekazu Ohtomo	520.40591X00	8177
20457	7590	11/12/2003	EXAMINER	
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP 1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET SUITE 1800 ARLINGTON, VA 22209-9889			CHEN, TIANJIE	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2652		9

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/943,507	OHTOMO ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Tianjie Chen	2652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 16-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 18, 19, 22, 23, 26 and 27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 16, 17, 20, 21, 24 and 25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Final Rejection

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Species Ib, Figs. 7 and 9 was made final in previous Office action. Applicant adds new claims 16-27, wherein claims 18, 22, and 26 recite "the wider step portion has curved contours," and claims 19, 23 and 27 recite "the wider step portion has flare structure contours;" however, these features do not exist in the elected Species Ib, Figs. 7 and 9; instead these features only exist in the non-elected Species 1C, Figs. 8a and 8b. Therefore, claims 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, and 27 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 27 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 27, line 1; "14" should be changed to --24--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kamijima (US 6,549,370).

With regard to claims 16 and 20; Kamijima shows a thin film head in Figs. 11 and 12 having a reading part 5 (Column 8, line 34) and a recording part including: an upper magnetic pole 15 (Fig. 12); and a lower magnetic pole having a lower magnetic main layer (See Figure attached), a lower magnetic pole front end portion on the lower magnetic main layer, and a projection step portion on the lower magnetic pole front end portion; wherein the projection step portion has a/a pair of wider step portion(s) at a predetermined depth from an air bearing surface which is wider than a width of the projection step portion at the air bearing surface, the wider step portion being wider than a width in a track direction of the upper magnetic pole at the predetermined depth from the air bearing surface.

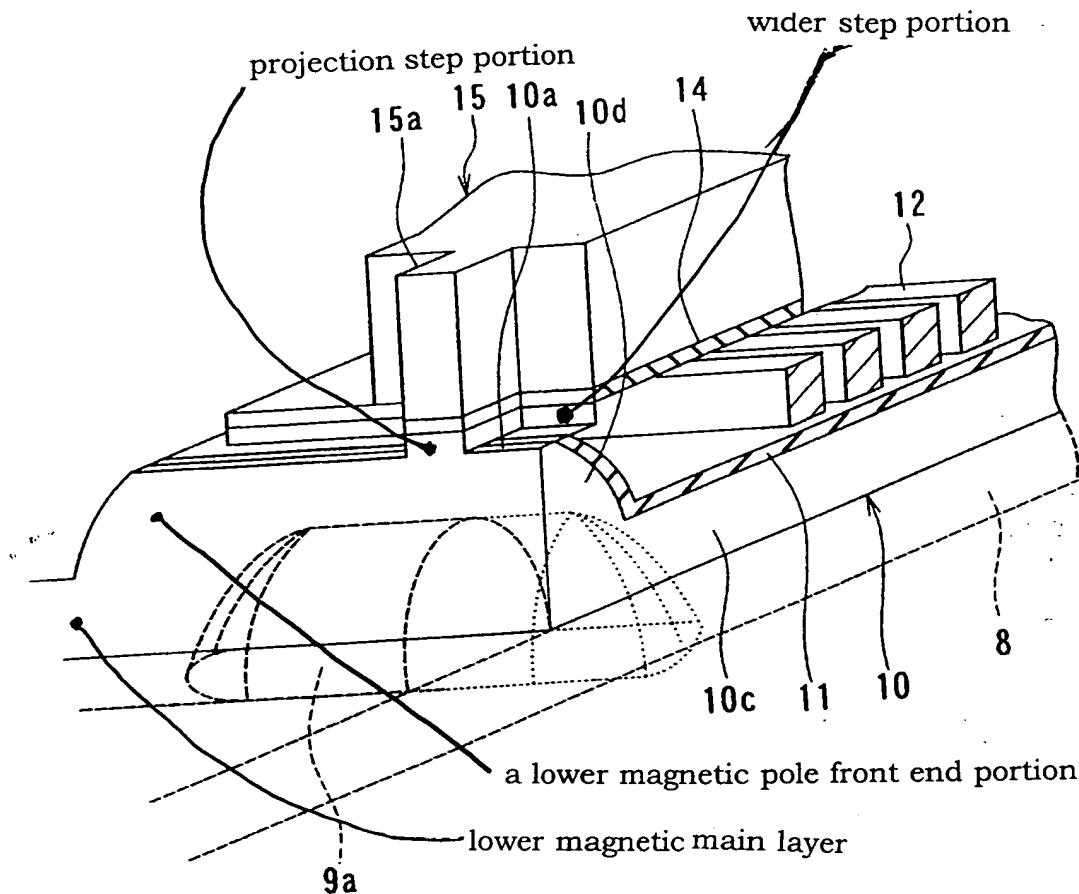


FIG. 12

With regard to claim 24, Kamijima et al shows a thin film head having a reading part 5 and a recording part including: an upper magnetic pole; and a lower magnetic pole having a lower magnetic main layer, a lower magnetic pole front end portion on the lower magnetic main layer, and a projection step portion on the lower magnetic pole front end portion; wherein a width in a track width direction of the projection step portion at an air bearing surface is substantially equal to a width in the track width direction of the upper magnetic pole at the air bearing surface; and wherein a width in the track width direction of the projection step portion at a predetermined depth from the air bearing surface is wider than a width in the track width direction of the upper magnetic pole at the predetermined depth from the air bearing surface.

With regard to claims 17, 21, and 25; Kamijima et al further shows that wider step portion has rectangular contours.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record in PTO-892 Form and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-7499. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on (703) 305-9687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



Tianjie Chen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652
11/03/2003